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Dear D,

Your letter of the 16th got here this morning. I read it and the seven other letters in today's mail while doing other chores in town, walking from one place to another, waiting.

I am, of course, happy to leave of the reincarnation, from skunk into dove. And I do hope for permanence in the transformation.

Were I in your position, I'd be looking forward to every scrap, no matter how tiny, from any friendly source. So, again I drop everything to respond. I won't always be able to because there are many urgent matters requiring my attention. They have kept me from doing any writing for some time, and the little I have done shows the effects. So, for many reasons, I must attend to these needs.

I'll address what I recall and then I'll skim your letter again, so I can mail this when I go to pick Lil up. This time of the year we have our only steady work and income. It is much work, little income, and all Lil's. I was working at 5 this a.m. I took her, as usual regardless of time, the special tea she likes and has each morning in bed, the one luxury I can provide, at about 6:30. She was in her office at 8. She is supposed to finish at 6 but is usually a little later. She worked last night at home until close to 11. She has worked later and she has worked all but the first weekend of the year at home, too. So, while she'll read your letter with interest and sympathy, as she has the others, don't expect a reply from her. She is too far behind in her work, one of the consequences of being conscientious and preferred by the office's clients. This was will be her condition until April 15.

Temporary adoption: the welcome rug was rolled out on the occasion of announcement of an earlier reformation, with conditions stipulated. It has not been rolled back up. Nor have the conditions been altered. We live in the suburbs of Squarecville and belong here. We conceive this particular five acres as Menschenburg. Only menschen live here, except for birds, wild animals, tame fish, and some muskrats a neighbor has just started to trap. What we like we feed, from birds to all the animals, including skunks, except the muskrats. Why this prejudice against muskrats? They are baddies and if not stopped will ruin the pond. This means killx the fish. Now these bass and golden trout and others come when they hear my voice, swim along the bank when I walk along it, eat what I throw them, and are entitled to their rights. So, the fish are good in my simplification, the muskrats endanger the fish and thereby are bad, hence the muskrats get offed. Menschen, ai! Vixen, to the well! Translation, yes, if.

Your talking to Head or the others: absolutely no unless Scott says otherwise. I want to tell you another story I want you to please pay close attention to. Once when I was staying at the 'Bleau and I'd dined with Helen May and Barbara, Barbara returned to my room with me so we could talk in peace. That was the night I arranged for Morris to baby-sit with Kelly. (What a switch, huh?) I guess that Barbara and I talked until 11 or a little later. We had hardly gotten back from the dining room when my phone rang. It was Layton, who I'd never met. He wanted me to use influence he thought I had to arrange for him to cop a plea. I asked him if he had discussed this with Bremer. He said he hadn't. So, I told him he owed that to Bremer. That as long as Bremer represented him, he had no right to do anything behind Bremer's back and no right to do anything about his case at all without Bremer's approval. I told him I wouldn't even talk to him without his getting Bremer's o.k. and then he should understand that I was not making any promise. Maybe an hour or more later he called back, for all the world as though he had gotten Bremer's o.k. Only after he had talked for a while did I think to ask him. He hadn't and I said goodbye. I felt I had to discuss it the next day with the man to whom he wanted me to talk. There was no hesitation: that he would listen to only from Bremer. Now all of this is the proper way. If you have an lawyer, as he owes you obligations, so also do you owe some to him. This also serves your selfish interest, for without this kind of standard you can cross your own lawyer up and thus cross yourself. Remember my reference to Ecclesiastes? This fits the language I quoted, and there also the lawyer's judgement is required. There is a time and a place for everything, and something that can be good at one time can be bad at the work time, hurtful. Aside from all of this, which has to do with propriety, I strongly believe now is the wrong time. Head, whose father I also know, is in the wrong

place anyway. There is something much better and in the right place if and when the time for that kind of approach comes.

Now that you have a King James bible, why not read all of Ecclesiastes? It is not depressing, if you think it through and understand it. It helps you put it all together, to get a perspective on yourself and your place in the whole bit. After that, try the Song of Songs, the opening to be taken figuratively and philosophically, not literally. And the Song of Solomon for a little alef-concept, whether or not you see yourself as black or a rose of Sharon or a lily of the valley. It is beautiful stuff.

I like your story about giving the cigarette away without return. That was one of your major character defects. You always wanted to get, not to give. Life means both. The only exceptions of which I can think is one bottle and one decal. In this case you fail to note the part about casting bread on troubled waters: the commissary order and the 3 a.m. pack of cigarettes. Sometimes it does work.

Jewish organizations: they are many and as unalike as people. You do not say to which you belonged or to which you believe you might apply for aid. These I know do not have this function. I could speak to the rabbi. Perhaps Scott knows some local ones. It is probable that aid could be forthcoming. In civilized parts of the country it is. I know a young man who got into some trouble and didn't know what to do. I went and spoke to the public defender's office. The man who runs that immediately arranged for a local lawyer to represent this kid. In some places, the public defender is no more than an adjunct of the prosecution. The man I spoke to was a real human being. There are some yet. So, please be more specific and remember, nothing that can cross Scott up.

You have spoken in such generalities of this total warfare from your parents I can't guess what they have done and what more you anticipate. If you want me to understand this, you'll have to be more specific. If it is serious I think you should get all of it down on paper for Scott. Only for Owen Marshall and TV is this not necessary. He can then decide for himself whether or not it is relevant, but he can't remember every word you tell him and he doesn't have time to listen to everything you might want to say. Or, you can send it to me and I can send him a copy or I can tell you where it needs clarification for him. I'd like to know what all of this is anyway. The other things of which you have spoken only in generalities it might be important for me to know in detail right now. I can't go into detail on why now, but I really should know all about it. Some of the evidences did come back to me. You might remember the case through Matt. And in entirely different parts of the country there is no question at all.

Possible job: why not make a note of that in detail for Scott when he is next there? Then you can give it to him instead of taking his time to talk about it. At some point this could have a value to his other than the one you see, and for you. Example: probation.

You say again that you are a Jew. You were born a Catholic and practised that religion. Did you go through the entire ritual of conversion. It isn't easy or simple.

Lil: you dig. But living with me has been very difficult, and turns in our lives have presented some very serious problems for her. You can guess only a few. She is very special.

Young lawyers in general: I've had much to do with lawyers. I began working with them before I cast my first vote. I've worked with and against some of the most famous. The life of a lawyer can be a hard one, the difficulties not relieved by wealth. Often they are enraged by their experiences. As I look back on such experience with my and including current relationships of which you have no knowledge, by and large, over the years, I'd have to say that the most dedicated, conscientious and trustworthy are the younger ones. They also work harder. The new crop comes from the best generation this country has ever produced. Roughly, your generation. if you have yet to justify this description (as I know you can if the reformation is genuine -as I do hope it is!)

I'll be writing Scott again and if he wants I'll stay in touch with him. I'll tell him what he wants to know about the old you. He'll be able to tell you what I've told him and if he wants more, he can ask either of us.

I do welcome your representation of the changes in you. Great. However, I've heard the same in the past. This time I want it to be real, for you to make the effort to make it real and lasting. When you were younger, I once turned you over and gave you a spanking. I'm afraid what you now say is not true, remember, I'm chopping trees